

## LESSON 19

### KUFFAR SEARCH FOR RASULULLAH (S)

#### First Year of Hijrah

Rasulullah(S) and Abu Bakr(R) knew that in the morning *Kuffar* would discover their flight. The *Kuffars'* search parties would try to chase them. So they went a short distance and hid in the cave called *Thawr* to avoid the search parties.

In the morning when the *Kuffar* did not see the Prophet (S) come out, they went inside. They found Ali (R) sleeping in the Prophet's bed. They were enraged. Ali(R) told them that Rasulullah(S) had left as they stood guard. The *Kuffar* were disappointed. They knew that the Prophet (S) would go to Yathrib, so they went towards Yathrib after him.

They announced a big prize for his capture. Many prize seekers went out to capture Rasulullah (S). They found no trace of him. In fact, some came up to the cave of Thawr. Some even thought to go inside to look for him. When Abu Bakr (R) heard this, he became worried for the safety of Rasulullah (S). But Rasulullah (S) consoled him, "What do you think of those two whose third one is Allah." Allah was indeed the third one with them. He sent *Sakinah*— peace of mind and calm — to them which removed all anxiety from their hearts. Besides, Allah also made a spider weave a web at the door of the cave and a dove lay eggs at the entrance. When the *Kuffar* looked at the entrance and saw the web and eggs they thought no one could go inside. Thus, Allah miraculously saved Rasulullah (S) and Abu Bakr (R) from their enemies.

For three days, both Rasulullah (S) and his friend, Abu Bakr (R), stayed in that narrow cave. Each evening Abu Bakr's daughter, Asma' (R) would send some milk and food through her servant. Abu Bakr's young son came at night quietly with the news of the enemies' plans. He told them the *Kuffar* had offered a big prize for the arrest or murder of Rasulullah (S). Many greedy people had gone out in every direction to look for him.

After three days stay in the cave, Rasulullah (S) and Abu Bakr (R) came out. Abu Bakr's servant had two camels ready for them. They set out for Yathrib. They continued traveling day and night. They wanted to get to Yathrib as soon as possible.

At noon it was too hot to go on, so they sat down to rest under the shadow of a big stone. A shepherd offered them some milk. For several days, the famous Arab rider, Suraqa, had been searching for them. He saw them resting. He was happy and thought he had already earned the big prize. But Prophet (S) was not afraid to see him. Then, all of a sudden, the heels of Suraqa's horse got stuck in the sand. Suraqa felt very very embarrassed. Now he realized that Allah was protecting His Prophet (S) and Abu Bakr (R). He went to Rasulullah (S) and gave himself up. Rasulullah (S) forgave him. Suraqa became a devoted Muslim.

In that helpless condition Rasulullah (S) addressed Suraqa, "What do you, O Suraqa, think of the day when you will wear the precious expensive bangles of Khusraw, the emperor of Iran, in your hand."

Little did Suraqa understand the prophecy of Rasulullah (S). Fourteen years later, the second *Khalifa*, Umar (R), offered these bangles to Suraqa as the power of Khusraw was shattered by Muslim armies.

The party of Rasulullah (S) made another stop at the tent of a lady called Ummi Ma'bad. She welcomed them and discovered they were hungry. She said, "I don't have anything to offer except the milk of my goat. But its milk is dried up due to lack of food."

Rasulullah (S) touched the udders of the goat and they milked it. The goat provided enough milk for the family and guests. As Rasulullah's party left, Ummi Ma'bad's husband came and heard the story of the blessed guests.

He said, "By God, these are the same people that the Quraish are searching for. I will become Muhammad's servant and follower."

After some rest, Rasulullah (S) and Abu Bakr (R) continued their journey. In Yathrib the news of Rasulullah's arrival had already reached the people. They were anxious to welcome the Prophet (S). Finally, Rasulullah (S) and Abu Bakr (R) arrived at Quba, a town three miles outside of Yathrib. They stayed there for a fortnight. Even in those few days, he built a *Masjid* there. This *Masjid* is still in Quba. Thousands of Pilgrims go there to say their special *Salat*.

Ali (R), who left Makkah later, joined Rasulullah (S) in Quba. Rasulullah (S) was pleased to see Ali (R) arrive safely. It was time to move on to their final destination, the city of Yathrib, which was eagerly awaiting the arrival of its honored guest.

In part II of the book we shall read how Rasulullah (S) was received in Madinah, what challenges did he face there and how did he succeed in establishing a united Muslim *Ummah* and an Islamic State?

#### *Points of review:*

1. Rasulullah(S) and Abu Bark(R) hid in the cave for three days.
2. They arrived safely at Quba.
3. Rasulullah(S) built a *Masjid* in Quba.

#### *Words to remember:*

Udders.

#### *Important names*

Abu Bakr(R) Quba, Suraqa, Ummi Ma'bad.

#### *Quranic Study*

1. Allah describes the incident of the cave in the Quran (*al-Tawbah* 9:40). Read and see how Allah helps the believers when they are in anxiety.
2. *Sakinah* — the peace and tranquility — is mentioned in the Quran in many places, e.g. *al-Fath* 48:4, 18, 26; *al-Tawbah* 9:26, 40. Read these verses to understand its meaning.
3. Read the verse *al-Tawbah* 9:108. What is the basis on which the *Masjid* of Quba is built? What kind of people built such *Masjid*?

